



Waratah-Wynyard Council

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Government Prices Oversight Commission
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Mr Ray Chan
Senior Research Officer

Thursday, March 09, 2000

Dear Ray,

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on Metro Pricing Policy.

Whilst the Metro service continues to rely on the State Governments Community Service Obligation contribution for the greater part of its revenue, social considerations should remain the primary factor when determining a new price structure.

As noted in the Issues Paper there has been a steady decline in patronage since the last fare increase. This may be due to a combination of factors.

However, Wynyard and Somerset communities are both serviced by Metro with their passengers coming from the following groups

- Senior retirees without access to private transport
- Youth, particularly during school holidays
- Commuters to work in Vincent Industries

The above groups are all price sensitive given that they are on fixed incomes.

From July 1st fares will rise due to the imposition of the GST. Further fare increases should be phased in over a longer time frame if the above groups are not to be disadvantaged by an additional hike.

Community Transport Services Inc. (Tasmania) set their fare structure around the Metro minimum fare for a concession cardholder. They are already reviewing their fare structure due to recent spiralling costs in fuel. Increases in Metro fares will have an immediate impact on fares charged in the community transport sector.

Due to the consolidation of services by the State Government in Service Tasmania Shops Wynyard and Somerset do not have access to the range of services they once enjoyed. Travel to Burnie is the only option if people need to deal in person with a service Tasmania representative.



Waratah-Wynyard area represents 62% of the Burnie shop feeder area. Wynyard residents perform 43% of transactions at the Burnie shop. A substantial number of people would be dependent on the Metro for transport to Burnie to use Service Tasmania.

Finally I would just like to commend Metro for the extended routes they provide within the townships of Wynyard and Somerset, these are popular with senior members of the community many of whom receive close to door to door service.

Yours sincerely

Richard

Richard Muir Wilson
Community Development Officer